

AMENDING THE ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE CONSTRUCTION AND PROCUREMENT OF AIRCRAFT AND AIRCRAFT EQUIPMENT IN THE NAVY AND MARINE CORPS, AND TO ADJUST AND DEFINE THE STATUS OF THE OPERATING PERSONNEL IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, SO AS TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DESIGNATION OF NAVAL AVIATION PILOT (AIRSHIP)

MARCH 26 (legislative day, MARCH 5), 1942.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. WALSH, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 2382]

The Committee on Naval Affairs, to whom was referred the bill, S. 2382, to amend the act approved June 24, 1926, entitled "An act to authorize the construction and procurement of aircraft and aircraft equipment in the Navy and Marine Corps, and to adjust and define the status of the operating personnel in connection therewith," so as to provide for the establishment of the designation of naval aviation pilot (airship), and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment, and recommend that the bill do pass.

The purpose of the bill is to provide for the establishment of the designation of naval aviation pilot (airship).

The Secretary of the Navy on December 18, 1941, approved the second partial report of the board appointed to recommend organization and personnel requirements for the nonrigid airship program. This report stated that it is the opinion of the Board that an item of outstanding importance in the correction and clarification of the lighter-than-air personnel situation is the creation of the designation of naval aviation pilot (airship).

It is believed that the designation referred to above would have the important advantage of insuring intact the maintenance of a nucleus of highly experienced lighter-than-air men. It would at the same time offer a reward for superior ability and as such would be a morale factor of great value. Primarily, however, it would provide a supplementary supply of a limited number of nonrigid airship

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pilots from enlisted sources instead of having to depend entirely upon the already highly taxed commissioned ranks.

The cost of the bill, if enacted, is estimated at approximately \$130,000 per annum.

The bill was introduced at the request of the Navy Department and has been cleared by the Bureau of the Budget.

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